

IN THE CLAIMS:

All pending Claims 1 to 38 are presented herein for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Previously Presented) A photometric device comprising:
 - a first area including a plurality of photoelectric transfer elements for performing photometry in the first area;
 - a plurality of second areas, each included in the first area and sharing photoelectric elements with the first area, for performing photometry in the plurality of second areas; and
 - determination means for correcting a photometric result in the first area when a difference greater than a predetermined value exists among photometric results in the plurality of second areas, and determining whether a backlight state exists based on the corrected photometric result in the first area.

2. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to claim 1, wherein said determination means corrects the photometric result in the first area on the basis of a ratio of an average value of the photometric results in the plurality of second areas to a value indicating the highest luminance or lowest luminance of the photometric results in the plurality of second areas.

3. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to claim 1, wherein said determination means corrects the photometric result in the first area on the

basis of a proportion of photometric results falling within a predetermined high-luminance range or low-luminance range of the photometric results in the plurality of second areas.

4. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the photometric device comprises an overall area including the first area and a peripheral area around the first area, and said determination means determines a backlight state exists when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in the first area and a photometric result in the peripheral area around the first area.

5. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to any of Claims 1 to 3, the photometric device comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on an overall area of the photometric device where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in the first area or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area, and

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in the first area are used as the photometric results in the plurality of second areas.

6. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to any of Claims 1 to 3, the photometric device comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on an overall area of the photometric device where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in the first area or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as a photometric result in a peripheral area.

7. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to any of claims 1 to 3, the photometric device comprising an overall area including the first area and a peripheral area around the first area, and wherein said determination means determines a backlight state exists when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in the first area and a photometric result in the overall area.

8. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to claim 7, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in the first area or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the

outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from the photoelectric conversion means in the overall area is used as a photometric result in the overall area.

9. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to claim 4, wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

10. (Previously Presented) A photometric device including an overall area where photometry can be performed, the overall area including a first area having a plurality of photoelectric transfer elements for performing photometry in the first area, a plurality of second areas, each included in the first area and sharing photoelectric transfer elements for performing photometry in the second areas, and a peripheral area around the first area, said photometric device comprising:

means for setting a reference value for determining whether a backlight state exists based on a difference between a photometric result in the first area

and a photometric result in the peripheral area or a photometric result in the overall area;

and

means for correcting the reference value based on the photometric results in the plurality of second areas when a difference greater than a predetermined value exists among photometric results in the second areas.

11. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to claim 10, wherein the correcting means corrects the reference value on the basis of a ratio of an average value of the photometric results in the plurality of second areas to a value indicating the highest luminance or lowest luminance of the photometric results in the plurality of second areas.

12. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to claim 10, wherein the correcting means corrects the reference value on the basis of a proportion of photometric results falling within a predetermined high-luminance range or low-luminance range of the photometric results in the plurality of second areas.

13. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to any of claims 10 to 12, wherein said determination means determines a backlight state exists when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in the first area and the photometric result in the peripheral area.

14. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to any of claims 10 to 12, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in the first area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area,

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in the first area are used as the photometric results in the plurality of second areas, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from specific photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the peripheral area.

15. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to any of claims 10 to 12, wherein said determination means determines a backlight state exists when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in the first area and the photometric result in the overall area.

16. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to claim 15, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in the first area or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area,

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in the first area are used as the photometric results in the plurality of second areas, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from the photoelectric conversion means in the overall area is used as the photometric result in the overall area.

17. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to claim 14, wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

18. (Previously Presented) A photometric device comprising:
a first area including a plurality of photoelectric transfer elements for performing photometry in the first area;

means for determining a plurality of second areas including an object for which backlight is to be determined on the basis of information on measured distance in at least a part of the first area, each second area being included in the first area and sharing photoelectric transfer elements with the first area; and

determining means for correcting the photometric result in the first area based on photometric results in the plurality of second areas including the object, and determining whether the object is in a backlight state based on the corrected photometric result.

19. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to claim 18, wherein photometry and distance measurement are performed in each of the plurality of second areas.

20. (Original) The photometric device according to claim 18 or 19, wherein a detection element for performing distance measurement also performs photometry.

21. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to any of claims 18 and 19, wherein the photometric result in the first area is corrected on the basis of a proportion of the plurality of second areas including the object.

22. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to any of claims 18 and 19, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on an overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in the first area or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area, and

values corresponding to the outputs from respective photoelectric conversion means included in the first area are used as photometric results in the plurality of second areas.

23. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to any of claims 18 and 19, comprising an overall area on which photometry can be performed, the overall area including the first area and a peripheral area around the first area, wherein said determination means determines a backlight state exists when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in the first area and a photometric result in the peripheral area around the first area.

24. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to 23, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in the first area or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the

outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the peripheral area.

25. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to any of claims 18 and 19, comprising an overall area in which photometry can be performed, the overall area including the first area, wherein said determination means determines a backlight state exists when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in the first area and a photometric result in the overall area.

26. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to claim 25, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area, wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in the first area or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from the photoelectric conversion means in the overall area is used as the photometric result in the overall area.

27. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to claim 22, wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion

means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

28. (Previously Presented) A photometric device including an overall area where photometry can be performed, the overall area having a first area having a plurality of photoelectric transfer elements for performing photometry in the first area, and a plurality of second areas around a periphery of the first area, each being included in the first area and sharing photoelectric transfer elements with the first area, said photometry device comprising:

means for setting a reference value for determining whether a backlight state exists based on a difference between a photometric result in the first area and photometric results in the plurality of second areas or a photometric result in the overall area;

means for determining any of the plurality of second areas including an object for which a backlight state is to be determined on the basis of information on measured distance in at least a part of the first area; and

means for correcting the reference value based on a photometric result in the second areas including the object.

29. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to claim 28, wherein photometry and distance measurement are performed in each of the plurality of second areas.

30. (Original) The photometric device according to claim 28 or 29, wherein a detection element for performing distance measurement also performs photometry.

31. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to any of claims 28 and 29, wherein said correcting means corrects the reference value on the basis of a proportion of the plurality of second areas including the object.

32. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 28 and 29, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in the first area or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area, and

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in the first area are used as the photometric results in the plurality of second areas.

33. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to any of claims 28 and 29, wherein said determination means determines that a backlight state exists when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in the first area and the photometric result in the peripheral area around the first area.

34. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to 33, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in the first area or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the peripheral area.

35. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to any of claims 28 and 29, wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in the first area and the photometric result in the overall area.

36. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to claim 35, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in the first area or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from the photoelectric conversion means in the overall area is used as the photometric result in the overall area.

37. (Previously Presented) The photometric device according to claim 32, wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first area is used as the photometric result in the first area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

38. (Previously Presented) A camera comprising said photometric device according to any of claims 1 to 3, 10 to 12, 18, 19, 28 and 29, wherein operations for taking pictures are controlled on the basis of at least one of the photometric result in the first area and the backlight determination result.